

pre- and post-Conference regional workshops on what needs to be done locally 'to save our region' in the context of a global 'march to survival'.)

#### 4. Multilingual Glossary of Environmental Terms

It is understood that work on this project has continued with the support of the Pergamon Press, Oxford, England, and it is understood that production by them at least in English, French, Spanish, and German, will be on a database system facilitating continuous updating.

#### 5. Other Journals, etc.

(a) Means are desired to encourage and help other needed journals through sponsorships, memberships, or grants, an example being *Environmental Awareness*, organ of the Indian Society of Naturalists (INSONA), of which the President and his Wife are Patrons.

(b) Preparation and subvention towards publication (with new coloured fold-out map or maps) of a completely revised edition of *Introduction to Plant Geography and Some Related Sciences*, to include new sections on pollution effects and ecology, plant conservation, introductions and their effects, competition, continental drift, and the role of plants in environmental conservation.

(c) Environmental Monographs & Symposia: Means are desired to support special cases with a leading international Publisher and possibly start another series to take care of less 'crisply scientific' works or potentially important volumes of doubtful sales potential.

#### 6. World Education Concerning The Biosphere

With the object of promoting world-wide knowledge of The Biosphere and appreciation of how humans are an integral part of it and utterly dependent on it, and yet are threatening it with their ever-increasing numbers and pressures on its finite resources, there were proposed in *Environmental Conservation* successively an 'International Year of the Biosphere' which was soon extended to 'The World Decade of The Biosphere, 1982-92' but then redesignated and subsequently declared as 'The World Campaign for The Biosphere 1982-', which the Foundation initiated and continues to sponsor but hopes will soon be taken over by a new *ad hoc* world body supported by various other ones.

#### 7. Research Projects

Various worthy ones have been encouraged, *inter alia* with publication of their results, but a budgetary item to help future ones financially would be welcomed. As a specific item it is thought that a project on Nature in a concrete Jungle could be promoted with little special financing, at least in its early stages. Another proposal is of still-needed national or regional floras, and yet another is of an illustrated volume on Vegetation Types of Europe (which, however, it is understood is now in an advanced stage of preparation).

#### 8. Other Items

(a) Feasibility study of a proposed International Association (or World Council or Academy) of Environmentalists; also of a comparable educational body, and of a Who's Who in the Environmental World.

(b) Endowment of the Baer-Huxley Memorial Lectures on topics of contemporary environmental concern, of which the first, on 'The International Community and the Environment', was given by Maurice F. Strong in Reykjavik, Iceland, during the Second International

Conference on Environmental Future, and was first published in *Environmental Conservation* (Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 165-72, Autumn 1977); the second is to be given by a leading environmentalist at the 3rd ICEF (see item 3 above).

(c) Endowment of a prize for the best paper published each year in *Environmental Conservation*, and ultimately of a major award or awards for environmental achievement and/or enterprise.

(d) Funds to convene working groups of leading specialists to pronounce quite freely on major environmental threats. An endowment of \$5 millions or SFr. 10 millions would suffice for this and meanwhile cover some of the above needs from income.

Further projects are under consideration, including urgent research proposals, a major World Heritage Series of volumes, establishment of a biennial award for demonstrated environmental concern and concomitant action by a multinational corporation, and fostering the establishment of associated foundations etc. in other parts of the world. With the demise of the Pahlavi Prize and the opening of the Tyler Prize to energy concerns, a major award for environmental leadership is an urgent need—if possible on a par with the Nobel Peace Prize (for which, incidentally, the nomination of leading environmentalists seems particularly desirable).

#### OPERATION AND NEEDS

With the running costs already contributed, and in the absence of any institutional overheads and taxes other than those that continue to be paid privately, the Foundation constitutes what has been called a uniquely economic vehicle for support of the environmental/conservation movement—whether generally or through specific projects which can be put in train as soon as funds become available. Contributions are warmly welcomed and individually acknowledged, and can be received in any negotiable currency by cheque made out to the Foundation for Environmental Conservation, c/o Banque Populaire Suisse, 1 Quai des Bergues, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, or sent to the Foundation's address ending the opening paragraph of this notice. (Plans for recognizing special services or substantial donations to the Foundation by the award of an engraved certificate designed by a renowned draughtsman have been shelved in view of the urgent need of all available funds for more pressing purposes, but donors are requested to identify themselves clearly unless anonymity is desired.)

NICHOLAS POLUNIN, *President*  
The Foundation for Environmental Conservation  
(as approved by its Governing Board).

#### Tropical Forest Campaign\*

A group of leading experts and other world notables concerned with tropical rain-forests and international development have launched an appeal to governments to alter the current course of rain-forest destruction before irreversible social and economic disruption occurs.

\* In this vital concern which is functionally at least a part of the World Campaign for The Biosphere, we hope we have helped and are continuing to help with our stressing of these topics in past issues of our Journal, and of Parks and Reserves in this one.—Ed.

'World governments have a choice: Trees now or tanks later', commented Nairobi-based Peter S. Thacher, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme). 'Loss of tropical forests at the present rate will undermine future economic development and threaten social and political stability in many countries.' Mr Thacher was speaking at a press conference\*\* in Bali, Indonesia, to launch a global WWF/IUCN campaign aimed at focusing world attention on the threat to the tropical forests and seeking funds for special action programmes.

Other key panellists included: HE Dr Emil Salim, Indonesian Minister of State for Development Supervision and Environment; Dr Lee M. Talbot, then Director-General of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources), and Charles de Haes, Director-General of WWF (World Wildlife Fund), who are both based in Switzerland; Dr Gerardo Budowski, Head of the Natural Renewable Resources Department of CATIE (Regional Tropical Agricultural Center for Research and Training) in Costa Rica; and Dr Kenton R. Miller, Director of the Wildlands Management Center, School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan, and Chairman of the IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA). Nine top scientific experts from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, also attended the press conference to answer technical questions.

'Saving the tropical forests is not a luxury, but a priority for world action', noted WWF Director-General Charles de Haes. 'Unfortunately, this problem remains a well-hidden time-bomb generally known only to a scientific *élite*. Mobilizing public opinion is our highest single priority in this campaign. Unless the public is made aware of the seriousness of the situation, and brings pressure to bear on governments and industry, there may be serious and irreversible consequences. These could include economic disruption, political instability, famine, drought, and disruption of our basic life-support systems. Already much is being done to avoid eliminating what remains of one of the world's most essential resources, but it is clearly not enough. The governments must be made to realize their obligations to future generations before it is too late.'

Tropical rain-forest loss in recent years has resulted in: disastrous floods in India, drought in Indonesia, reduction in water-levels supplying the Panama Canal, clogging of Thailand's traditional waterway transport systems, reduced efficiency of hydroelectric systems in Philippines, and the devastation of Haitian farms—among other [often widely serious], consequences. The latest satellite studies now indicate that, at the present rate of destruction, several Central American nations will lose their entire forest cover by the end of the century.

'The problem of the tropical forests is the world's most important conservation priority', Dr Talbot, then Director-General of IUCN, noted: '... leading scientists in the US *Global 2000 Report* and the *World Conservation Strategy* all make it clear that the tropical rain-forests, the oldest and most diverse ecosystems on Earth, moderate climate, ensure a constant supply of fresh water... and provide fibre, food, fuel, building materials, and medicines. They are an important source of food in

areas of the world where increased population puts added pressure on food supply, a major source of revenue for many tropical countries, and provide western nations with an incredible variety of essential products—including many of our most important pharmaceuticals.' Yet tropical forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate: The estimated annual destruction is equal to three times the area of Switzerland!

The Head of the Natural Renewable Resources Department of Costa Rica's famed CATIE Research Institute, Dr Gerardo Budowski, said the United States 'Hamburger Connection' was destroying large portions of Central America's tropical rain-forests: 'Vast areas of productive tropical rain-forest are being cut down to provide pastures, productive for 5–7 years at most, for cattle that provides less than 2% of America's beef. The US doesn't need the small amount of cheap beef they get in this way, but the countries of Central America *do* need their valuable forests.'

What can be done? Mobilizing public opinion on a world scale is being given highest priority in the WWF/IUCN campaign. In addition to strategic educational and public awareness projects in both tropical forest countries and the developed world, WWF will launch an aggressive television-and-print advertising campaign that will take the case for protecting the tropical forests to those countries which are still rich in forest resources. Over a million dollars in donated space in publications and air-time on television and radio stations is expected in more than 40 countries.

Indonesia was chosen as the venue for the launching of this Tropical Forest Campaign because of its imaginative government conservation programme and the fact that it has 10% of the world's total tropical forest resource, being in this respect second only to Brazil. Another key reason for holding the launch in Indonesia is to tie-in with the once-a-decade World National Parks Congress, which opened the following morning at the same venue.

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### The Race Against the Arms Race\*

We protest the global arms-race as American citizens and citizens of the world with a deep concern for human well-being, for ecological balance, and for true national and international security. We do so because our current [national] reliance on military power as the main instrument of foreign policy, and the accompanying nuclear weapons-race, bring us ever closer to a nuclear conflict that will decimate the human population, destroy its social fabric, and wreak havoc upon our global environment.

We seek an end to the arms race because it diverts human and natural resources from pressing social and environmental needs. As a major portion of the economic surplus of most nations, military budgets represent a

\*\* Held on 10 October 1982, before the opening of the World National Parks Congress (see the 'Important Prospect' on page 170 of our Summer issue and the report in a forthcoming one).—Ed.

\* Collective statement of about 24 persons who comprised Working Session No. 1 of the Conference on the Fate of the Earth, held in New York, NY, USA, 19–21 October 1982, which was co-chaired by the undersigned three co-authors.—Ed.